

GRAUSTARK

#255

1970BN, 1971EB, 1971EC

New Year's Day 1972

1971EB

"Spring 1901"

BALKAN PARTITION UNDER WAY

ENGLAND (Birsan): F Lon-Nth; F Edi-Nrg; A Liv-Edi.

FRANCE (Holcombe): A Par-Bur; A Mar-Spa; F Bre-Mid.

GERMANY (Grayson): A Ber-Kie; F Kie-Hol; A Mun-Ruh.

ITALY (Brooks): F Nap-Ion; A Rom-Apu; A Ven holds.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Drakert): A Bud-Ser; F Tri-Alb; A Vie-Bud.

RUSSIA (Silverman): F Sev-Rum; A War-Liv; F St.P(s.c.)-Bot; A Mos holds.

TURKEY (Hawley): A Con-Bul; F Ank-Con; A Smy holds.

The deadline for "Fall 1901" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 15 JANUARY 1972. See p. 2 for phone numbers of players.

VIENNA: Emporer Franz Joseph XIX desires peace with one & all, especially in this Holiday Season, and wishes one an all a truly peaceful New Year.

PARIS: The French Republic wants only peace, and as a gesture of goodwill is sending the bulk of our military forces to Spain on vacation.

ROME (3 Feb. 1901): Due to the heavy spring rains, elements of the Italian Army and Navy have left for more pleasant areas. The Italian Navy, under command of Admiral John Pom-Pom, have left for the summer-port of Tunis for the woman-hunting season.

VENICE (2 Apr. 1901): The 3rd Imperial Guards Army, based in Venice, refused to march as Europe flamed into war. Their commander, General Leonardo von Bismarck, said, "We like it here and we won't go." The General is Italy's most decorated hero and when the King, Victor the Silly, heard this he said, "Here we go again!" and went out and got drunk.

1971EC

"Spring 1901"

AUSTRIA, ITALY CONFRONT EACH OTHER

ENGLAND (Lipton): F Lon-Nth; F Edi-Nrg; A Liv-Yor.

FRANCE (Grayson): A Par-Pic; A Mar-Spa; F Bre-Mid.

GERMANY (Berman): A Ber-Kie; F Kie-Hol; A Mun-Ruh.

ITALY (Warden): F Nap-Ion; A Rom-Apu; A Ven holds.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Fox): A Bud-Ser; F Tri-Alb; A Vie-Tri.

RUSSIA (Barents): F Sev-Rum; A War-Ukr; F St.P(s.c.)-Bot; A Mos-St.P.

TURKEY (Willner): A Con-Bul; F Ank-Bla; A Smy-Con.

The deadline for "Fall 1901" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 15 JANUARY 1972. See p. 2 for phone numbers of players. Michael Willner's phone number was given incorrectly in #253; it is 212-SH 3-9523.

WARSAW (Karlos Intellect Letures Live): Today off the coast of St. Petersburg starnded on a Reef, a person was found. This Person goes by the name of Barents. He states that it was his Great GrandFather that found the Sea that we all love so well.

MINEYOUROWNBUSSINESS (Boats And Land Lubbers Service): It was announced that the Foriegn Affairs office of the State Dept set up Head Quaters in the city today. The arrival of the Duchth Boy is expected in the next couple of hours and lines were already forming to for interviews to be his sec. Reports have that all the females of the city want to work under him.

MENSTRUALA: Karlos Kotexya the Kind (known as KKK for short) today married the princess of the tiny Mongolian state of Vagaigelal, Tampelaxlia. The Russian people are sure to take her into their hearts.

(continued on p. 3)

FOURTH NEW GAME BEGINS

The players in "G-IV", the tentative designation for the fourth of the new postal Diplomacy games, are:

ENGLAND: Joseph C. Alfenito, 43 Cherry Ave., New Rochelle, N. Y. 10801

FRANCE: John C. Powell, 808 Lafayette St., Denver, Colo. 80218

GERMANY: Scott Huddleston, Box 4480, Station B, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. 37203

ITALY: Buddy Tretick, 3702 Wendy Lane, Silver Spring, Md. 20906; 301-942-8306

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Michael Honig, 101-11 Avenue M, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11236; 212-241-3926

RUSSIA: John De Prisco, Box 502, Manor Branch, New Castle, Del. 19720

TURKEY: Mark W. Murray, Box 1706, Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass. 01610; 617-793-1461

The deadline for "Spring 1901" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 29 JANUARY 1972.

The new game "G-III", announced in the last issue, has been assigned the game number 1971EE by Rod Walker, and will henceforth be referred to by this designation. The first deadline is two weeks from today.

Additional players in 1971EB, 1971EC, and 1971EE have sent in their telephone numbers to facilitate contact. They are:

Herb Barents, 616-772-2838

Bill Drakert, 914-592-5009

Bill Hawley, 216-662-5643

Robert Lipton, 516-374-4723

Stephen Brooks, 602-327-1483

Don Fox, 617-776-6905

1970BN

"Spring 1909"

ITALIAN FRONT COLLAPSES

ENGLAND (H. Anderson): F Nwy holds; F Nrg, F Nth, & F Ska S F Nwy.

FRANCE (Nierenberg): A Bel-Hol; A Ruh S A Bel-Hol [sic; no such unit exists]; F Bre-Mid; F Spa(s.c.)-Wes; A Gas-Bur; A Mar S A Gas-Bur; A Bur not ordered, holds.

ITALY (Model): No moves received. F Tyr holds; A Rom & F Nap dislodged and annihilated.

RUSSIA (Buchanan): F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; F Bar S F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; A Swe-Fin; A Ber-Swe; F Bal C A Ber-Swe; F Den S A Ber-Swe; A Kie S F Den; A Ruh-Hol; A Mun-Ruh; A Boh-Mun; A War-Sil; F Sev holds; F Aeg. S TURKISH F Eas-Ion.

TURKEY (Barents): F Ion-Nap; F Apu S F Ion-Nap; A Tus-Rom; A Ven S A Tus-Rom; F Eas-Ion; F Gre S F Eas-Ion; A Pie-Mar; F Tri-Alb.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1909" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 15 JANUARY 1972. The first stand-by, Brian Burley, is asked to send in provisional "Fall 1909" moves for Italy. Burley's address and telephone number are 38 North Main Street, Hackettstown, N. J. 07840; 201-852-2282. Press releases begin on p. 4.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

The key to address label codes on p. 3 left out "G". This letter refers to players in postal Diplomacy game 1971BG.

*

Hugh Anderson sent in a report on the Diplomacy tournament held in Holland, Mich. on 18 December 1971. Seventeen players showed up, and two across-the-board games were won by Anderson and by Robert van Andel, both playing Turkey. Anderson's report will be printed in the next GRAUSTARK.

1971EC (continued from p. 1)

HASHMENAL: From his summer retreat high in the Urals KKK today announced that he had appointed Barents, the Dutch Boy, Head of The Dept. of Defense. Upon learning that the Boy was Dutch, he then also made Barents head of the Foreign Affairs at which Dutch said 'I wonder how many foriegn affairs I can get into.'

MOSCOW: Today KKK, though his foriegn affairs office, announced that if anyone would attack Russia that they would be in for a lot of blood letting. He went on to say that Russia could afford to lose more than othersand that we could also soak it up better.

MOSCOW: Barents at his first press interview was asked why he did not capitolize the letters in his title. 'See we don't want any one to know what we are getting into.'

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

John Beshara, Gamesmaster of 1970BB, regrets that his adjudication of the "Fall 1913" moves were not mailed to the publisher in time for this issue. These adjudicated moves will be sent to the players by carbon copy, and a deadline will be set for any "Winter" builds and removals and for "Spring 1914" moves.

The "Spring 1902" moves in 1971BG have been delayed by the fact that Earl Hodin, playing England, is now in the process of moving back to the U. S. The deadline for these moves is 10 January 1972, and they will be printed in GRAUSTARK #256 two weeks from today.

*

Four new postal Diplomacy games have been begun in GRAUSTARK since the announcement of new games was made in November. The demand is now slackening off, and it appears that one more new game is about all that can be organized. However, players and readers are reminded that stand-by players will be needed for these games. The entry fee for stand-bys is \$3 per game. See #252 for details.

*

The assignment of new game numbers has required a change in the code on the address labels. Letters in the upper right corners of these labels now have the following meanings:

- b - You are (or were) a player in 1970BB.
- B - You are a player in 1971EB. (formerly "G-I")
- c - Complimentary copy.
- C - You are a player in 1971EC. (formerly "G-II")
- E - You are a player in 1971EE. (formerly "G-III")
- n - You are a player in the new game "G-IV", which has not yet been assigned a game number. (See p. 2)
- N - You are (or were) in 1970BN.
- S - This is a sample copy, inviting you to subscribe. See p. 10 for details, and #252 for rules and how to enter a game.
- T - This copy is in trade for your postal Diplomacy publication. (I expect soon to weed out trades from which no publication has been received in three months.)

If a number appears on the mailing label, this is the number of the last issue which you will receive on your present subscription. One of the above letters, followed by "+" and a number, indicates that you subscribed before entering a game. You will be entitled to the indicated additional number of issues on your subscription after the game ends.

*

After 10 January, Earl Hodin's address will be: "Marlborough House, 5775 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, Fla. 35140."

*

Verbum Sapientis Department: When Berkeley's City Council voted 6-1 to assist deserters, the California Attorney-General said that "the Federal government has plenty of muscle to force the Berkeley Council into line."

1970BN - PRESS RELEASES

ISSHEMEAL-KEP (Underground Rouch Rolling Press): We see our hero Hasha still talking with Suplar Jockkla. They are discussing the John as we join them we can overhear them talk.

"Is that so" Says Hasha	This is
"That is so" Replys Suplar	O At
"You mean to say that you are ruled by the John?"	P Great
"That is so long long ago, before Turkey started with	E Intervals
body language The John was the Ruler of the fief here. See	R This
during the times of the great wars to free the holy cities the	A Appears
John grandfather was giveb th fief here I t was long forgot-	T To
ten and overlooked when the Arbabs came though many years back	I Inflame
when the took all the surrounding lands. But as of a year ago	O Optic
the John moved to Brooklyn and is known as Sir John Of Brook-	N Nerves
lyn."	

"But how can I get there the CK told me not to go near water"

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"If I know Sir John he will find you, but you must not let him find you too soon as you must destroy that thing."

All is not lost for our hero, watch us kill the John.

IGORIA (Underground Rodent Resisinat Press): The Press would like to inform the URRP of Brooklyn that if he can not find the right translator that he should then give up trying to translate the Trukish Body Language. It takes many long long years so learn to translate it right. So if he doesn't have the time he should get out.

BROOKLYN (United Rabble Rousing Press): An unidentified spokesman for the Bureau of Usually Reliable Sources, International Travelers, and Intelligence Spokesmen today denied that Bangs Leslie Tapscott was a pseudonym of Cuthbert Crotchpheasant. "This rumor," he said, "has been traced to a professional Dirty Old Man in Kankakee, who runs a cat-house." The spokesman further refused the unanimous demand of Lorrie Lowly and the entire organization of WLW (Warm Loving Wives) for Crotchpheasant's address.

HYDUNDERABAD (URRP): Maharajah Kamasutra IX, absolute ruler of this tiny Indian state, today ordered from Kankakee 16 females to restock his harem. "Cat-house, eh?" he was heard to snicker as the Camel Express carried his letter away.

HYDUNDERABAD (URRP): The Maharajah's order from Kankakee arrived today. Much to his surprise, it consisted of two Persians, one Siamese, one Maltese, and 12 ordinary alley tabbies. "Cat-house, eh!" said the potentate in a much different tone. "Mustafa, crate a tiger and send it to this joker in Kankakee. We'll show him what a cat-house is!"

HYUNDERABAD (Useless Retired Rulers Press): MJIX today annouced that the Brooklyn Urrp was being sued by the Useless Retired Rulers Press of Hyunderabad for damages done to this fine press. It seems that the Urrp of Brooklyn refuses to annouce its mistake in labeling of press releases from Turkey and surrounding areas. The sum that the Urrp of the USA was being sued for was given a 38574695746395746365869705848363759595974635 lids of stones or equal to 3¢ US money.

ISSHEMEAL-KEP (Unorganized Rodent Resistant Press): The URRP of this city has decided to supply the Urrp of Brooklyn with a list of the various URRP's that are coming from Turkey. Underground Rouch Rolling Press- Issmeal-Gaka Underground Rodent Resisient Press-Isshemeal-Kep Useless Retired Rulers Press- Hyunderabad, Underwear Reveiling Rarties Press Asshela, Useless Routed Rabble Press- Pandit's hideout. We hope that in the near future the staff of the United Rabble Rousing Press will get things straight, or they will have a united rabble on their hands.

BROOKLYN (URRP): The United Rabble Rousing Press today expressed its thanks to various Muddle Eastern agencies using its initials, but insisted that itself had priority of their use. "Despatches of these other agen-

(continued on p. 10)

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

[Dates of letters to the editor are given, where known.
The editor's comments are in square brackets.]

CHUCK VEST, 5134 Merlin Dr., San Antonio, Texas 78218 (14 Dec.): My check for \$6 is enclosed. If the games are indeed full, apply the bread as follows - one stand-by position and the remainder to extend my paid subscription. At the rate I'm going you mya have to live to be 150 years old to satisfy your end of the contract - or ask the government to terminate your contractual obligations as it is wont to do these days.

Of course, as long as we can keep our technology moving you may have a shot at 150 - or, on the other hand, if the eco-freaks get their way our children's children may be faced with a life expectancy more like 40 years and will rightly damn us for letting it happen to them. While we agree on many points, I must point out that no totally pacifist position is defensible, since we are obligated to retain the right to defend ourselves when force is used against us. Unless we retain this, we are inevitably going to end up as rightless slaves to the first man who discovers we won't protect our own interests.

[The government has already established that it may take your life if it feels such a step is necessary. "Rights", a fortiori, go with it. The resolve to protect your own interest really isn't important when such preponderant odds of fire-power and opinion management exist as now exist between the individual and the government. Go talk about "rights" at Mylai or Kent State.]

TERRY KUCH, 7554 Spring Lake Dr., Bethesda, Md. 20034 (5 Nov.): [This letter has reference to Dr. Kuch's review of The Jerusalem Bible, which appeared in GRAUSTARK #254.] On not viewing the Bible as a relic: to understand it, I think, it is necessary to realize that it is the record of the religious experience of a 'God-intoxicated people' - even those parts that, to us, do not seem to be 'religious' at all. For the Jews of that day, the number of goats Tribe X brought into Canaan was not an item of inventory, but a manifestation of the favor of their God. Even the Song of Songs which is Solomon's is religious, but not in the way the Christian Scholastics thought. To view it simply as 'great love poetry' misses the point - and as poetry, in spite of the praise paid to it, it isn't really very good. The 'begats', like ancient Egyptian family trees of the Pharaohs, were not a kind of Burke's Peerage but a record of how specific royal or priestly families kept the heritage of the true faith in generation after generation.

Nietzsche said "Why did God learn Greek when He wanted to write His book - and why didn't He learn it better?"

[Nietzsche probably learned classical Athenian Greek in a German Realgymnasium. The Septuagint and the New Testament are in the real Greek that real people spoke at the time they were written. The same is true of the Latin Vulgate, which Cicero would have scorned as a collection of bad grammar and lower-class dialect.]

ROD WALKER, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego, Calif. 92116 (10 Dec.): I'd like to comment, for publication, on the two rules situations which John [Beshara] brings up, in reverse order.

[These comments are in GRAUSTARK #253, p. 6.]

II. This situation is correct, but actually arises under Rule XII.5 (not XII.3, which John quotes), "A convoyed attack does not protect the convoying fleets." Example 13, which follows, is essentially the same as the example John gives. Rules XII.3 and XII.5 obviously reinforce each other, and John's point is well taken in that regard.

[All references are to the 1971 revision of the Diplomacy Rulebook. See GRAUSTARK #252 for details.]

I. I don't see how this interpretation arises. The rule quoted applies to this kind of situation: ENGLAND: A Lon-Bel, F Eng C A Lon-Bel;

FRANCE: F Bre-Eng. Here, the convoy succeeds because the convoying fleet is attacked but not dislodged. The rule John quotes says exactly that. Furthermore, the correspondence between those who rewrote the Rulebook, to which John also has access, makes this clear.

That does not mean John's suggested ruling is wrong. It raises all sorts of questions, some of which I'd like to discuss. First of all, I think that what was meant in John's analysis is not that the convoyed army stands off the attacking fleet. The convoying fleet does that, since it is supported in place. I believe he is suggesting that the attacking fleet is standing off the convoyed army, since each is equally well supported. I agree with John's ruling here, and would also rule the stand-off in the absence of the ENGLISH order "F Eng S F Nth".

This is because, as John says, the convoyed army is coming from the direction of the convoying fleet. This is Brannan's Rule, and I have ruled in exactly this fashion for years. In my current House-Rules, dated last June, this ruling appears as HR 23b (that is, Brannan's Rule, corollary B). I have long been practically alone in my stand on this question, and I am glad to see others beginning to rule the same way. I do not see, however, how the ruling can arise from Rule XII.3, which John Quotes. However, since we are agreed that the ruling is valid, there is no need to quibble over why.

The problem is, however, that the Rulebook may not sanction this ruling at all. In order to see this, we must go back to Rule XII.5, "A convoyed attack does not protect the convoying fleets." In the early drafts of the new Rulebook, I inserted Brannan's Rule and all its corollaries (including the ruling of my HR 23b, and an example to illustrate it, essentially the same as the example John uses, except set in the Med, convoying A Spa-Nap, and without a support for the last convoying fleet). After some deliberation, Allan Calhmer rejected this interpretation. He and I had a lively debate over convoyed attacks in the context of World War I and of World War II, in which he felt that my ruling would be all right in the latter context, but not in the former, which is the context of the game. Anyway, Allan then wrote in a rule on this situation the opposite of the one I suggested, with an example which is now Example 13. His intent was to prevent a stand-off between the convoyed army and the attacking fleet. To Example 13, add FRANCE: A Rom S A Spa-Nap, and you will see what I mean. Allan would rule that the FRENCH F Tyr is still dislodged. If one reverses this situation, and using John's example I, Allan would also rule that A Edi-Hol succeeds, or so I believe. I suppose we should write Allan and find out for sure, but that would seem logical in view of his stand on the convoying fleet when unsupported.

As I said before, however, I feel that the ruling John Suggests is more reasonable, and more consistent with other rulings involving convoys. I will probably continue to rule as I always have on this matter, which is the ruling John suggests, but will wait to see what Allan says before making up my mind.

...Well, you got your wish. There is an Indo-Pakistani war, and the United States is staying out of it. [This letter was written just before the US sent a fleet into the Indian Ocean.] Creating an independent Bengal, as India seems bent on doing, will prove to be a great mistake, for India. Separatist movements have a way of reinforcing themselves. Besides, making a "Republic of Bengal" out of East Pakistan leaves unanswered this important question: what about the Bengalis in India (West Bengal)? I know the answer to that one, and I suspect you do to, and the Indians are not going to like it.

By the way, given your ludicrous notion that the US loves wars and can't wait to get tangled up in them, how are you going to equivocate your way out of the fact that we are not going to intervene militarily in the Bengal War?

[As of present writing, Pakistan refuses to admit that the war is over,

and that US fleet is somewhere off the western coast of the subcontinent, with Washington drawing a curtain of silence over its movements and intentions. "Present writing", incidentally, is 25 December, a week before this issue goes to press. It may all be a moot point by then. "We're not going to let the Faks get beaten," Jack Anderson quotes the President as saying.

[As for Bang-Bang-Dish, or whatever the Bengalis are calling their new toy, it will last until India thinks it can gulp it down and preserve most appearances. It took the US 12 years to get away with a similar stunt concerning the "Republic of Texas", but things move much more quickly in this century! The cue to these developments was given by Ms. Gandhi, who calls the region not "East Pakistan" or "Bangla" whatever, but "East Bengal". And so it shall be - as an Indian state, after the annexation. Contrary minded among the Bengalis will be handled by those same Indian troops they whistled in to lick the Pakistanis.]

YALE EDEIKEN, 2635 Cranston Rd., Philadelphia, Penn. 19131 (9 Dec.): As a Philadelphian I must ask you to refrain from quoting Rizzo (or the Cisco Kid as he was known on his original beat) merely because his habitual incompetence with the English language makes such quotes so commonplace that reciting one is like eating a salted peanut. Once you start you can't stop. I heard him announce a plan yesterday that would if put in practice, eliminate branch libraries in the city; quoth the Rizzo, "That makes sense, don't it. I just thought of that idea when I was listening to you guys."

The championship still belongs, in Philly anyway, to Rizzo's political rival Paul D'Ortona who introduced a visitor from Africa as "the distinguished ambassador from nigger-o-ah."

ARNOLD VAGTS, 2824 Verano Pl., Irvine, Calif. 92664 (28 Nov.): [Most of this letter refers to Stan Wrobel's complaint in "The Rip-Off Roll #3", GRAUSTARK #253, p. 5] Here is the documentation of Buddy Tretick's slackness in his zine La Guerre for your Rip-Off Roll. The second 7-man 7-game tourney LGA-LGG (1970BK-1970BQ) officially started on Nov. 8 1970. The game is now in the "Winter 1902" move!

The most flagrant case of slippage is the current one: the deadline for the "Winter 1902" builds was Aug. 14. Tretick then sent a letter to the players dated Aug. 29 asking the players to resubmit their orders because he had lost some of them and set the new deadline as Sept. 10. It is now Nov. 28 and we still haven't received the lousy builds. In that letter he also explained the delay of the preceding "Fall 1902" move (which was over 3 months delayed) by telling us of his many personal ventures with orphaned children and the Montessori method, his work with the FAA, etc., i. e. he is very busy. He is so busy that he started a new game (LRX, 1971BC) on Aug. 6 and is now advertising game openings for a new section which he is going to start. Only an irresponsible ass would make further commitments when he can't fulfill his current obligations.

Tretick has just about ruined the games through his constant delays (he doesn't answer my personal correspondence asking about the games' status); the players would like some decisive action taken. Tretick has refused to transfer the games to any other Gamesmaster. I hope you have more luck than the rest of us in moving him off his ass.

Thanks for your help in this frustrating matter.

MICHEL LIESNARD, Avenue Evariste de Meersman 43, Berchem-St.-Agathe, B-1080, Bruxelles, Belgium (9 Nov.): Two days ago there have been general elections in Belgium for the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the province-Councils. The two parties which won... will form a new government together despite the fact that they do not agree on anything. [Are you sure that you're not describing a game of Charles Wells' invention Parlement?] For example the Belgian Socialist Party wants to reduce out military expenses and defends the idea of a 6 months military service (now: 18 months) while the Social Christian Party wants to reinforce (!) our posi-

tion in 1910 by a 2 (11) years service. Also they disagree on education, economical policy and social security. The only point they agree on is that Belgium must not become a federal nation. I forecast some difficulties...

[It must be interesting, to live in a country where political parties actually have recognizably different policies about major issues.]

About the new rule book: I received one sample directly from M. Moot, the President of Games Research Inc., and I'm presently translating it into French.

MICHAEL MONAHAN, 15 St. Margaret's Bay Rd., Halifax, Nova Scotia (7 Nov.): You once wrote that you thought that only 3 or 4 of Northern Ireland's "Six Green Fields" had Protestant majorities. True, but then only four of them voted to stay out of the Free State. [Only Tyrone sends a Nationalist majority to the Stormont "Parliament".]

Well, you may remember that I wrote that the Edmund Burke Society was unimportant and nobody paid any importance to them. Well the first may be true but the latter certainly isn't. It was a member of that august body who assaulted the Soviet Premier. This man was also a candidate in the Ontario general election that was then being fought, as a representative of the Social Credit Party. I regret to say that he received 230 votes. That is about 0.01% of the vote. (Interestingly enough he lost to the very popular NDP (Socialist) millionaire health critic - who received 16,500 votes.)

Who is the leader of the Ontario Social Credit Party? A man named Paul Fromm, sound familiar? See GRAUSTARK #223, for starts. It would seem that the Ontario Social Credit is firmly in the hands of the Edmund Burke Society. Not that this is anything to worry about as Social Credit hasn't come close to getting anybody elected in Ontario in many years... So while the Ontario Social Credit didn't condemn the attacker the national party did, in no uncertain terms.

(To my knowledge the strongest SC candidate received less than 500 votes - and the average riding has 25,000 voters.) By comparison the socialist NDP received 27% of the vote and came within an inch of becoming the official opposition. (And this was a major setback for the NDP, ONLY getting 27% (up 1%) and 19 seats (down 2)).

One thing that the recent publicity has done for the Edmund Burke Society; it has launched a claim that Matrai was beaten up by either inmates or police. (Which has been denied.) And before the Soviet Premier came to Toronto it was the Edmund Burke Society who found themselves arrested, charged with plotting to murder the honoured guest of the Canadian government and kept in jail until he had left. Their homes were searched and 'arms' (Baseball bats, etc.) were confiscated. But then such are the problems that one must put up with if one is a dangerous and insane radical who is endangering Canada. (Mind you I think that the police cannot defend their actions and should be punished for attempting to lock somebody up merely because of what his friends had done.)

Although this isn't really to the point - Matrai is a FOREIGN RADICAL, and you know what the Right (correctly) warns us comes from foreign radicals.

PS: The Social Credit government in Alberta has recently been defeated. [This is after a continuous reign of 36 years.]

PPS: The Social Credit Party recently refused to admit the (ex) leader of the Canadian Nazi Party.

KENNETH SCHER, 3119 Mott Ave., Far Rockaway, N. Y. 11691 (21 Dec.): I just read GRAUSTARK #254, and in your review of de Camp's new books, you comment on Mulvan's resemblance to India. I found the situation strongly reminiscent of Persia and the Greek city-states. In the first book, someone mentions that the Mulvanians tried using scythed chariots against the Novarian nations, and I believe that the Novarians in that battle were using hoplites. If the situation is reminiscent of India at all, it could

(continued on p. 12)

2

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

or

"WHY, GODFATHER, WHAT BIG LETTER CAMPAIGNS YOU HAVE!"

"Dee Italyener vos zogen zay? 'Unzer Malchus is a Malchus!'"
- Rabbi Levi-Isaac of Berdichev

Brantano's and several other New York City game shops offered for this holiday season 'The Godfather Game'. Packaged in a plastic violin case whose label displays a tommy-gun, this game has raised screams of outrage from Italian-Americans and from any politician whose district contains large numbers of them.

The game board is divided into such sections of a city as Harlem, Park West, The Docks, Little Italy, Lower East Side, and Wall Street. The object is to take over rackets in as many neighborhoods as possible. (We might wonder why Wall Street was included. Pete Hamill has suggested that the way to get rid of the Mafia is to make all of its activities legal. Once that was done, the WASP operators in Wall Street would clean them out in a week.)

Racket cards in the game represent bookies, bootleggers, loan sharks, and other profitable activities. A player who draws a "Fingerman Card" can remove from the board any three of his opponents' pieces.

The game's inventor, Jody Porter of Urban Systems Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., says that he intended no slur on any ethnic group. To which the Los Angeles Free Press (19 Nov. 1971) acidly replies, "We've heard that one before, right? When they talk about a Godfather Game, who do you think they got in mind? Did you ever hear of a Congolese Godfather?"

(We will leave aside for the time being the alleged kidnapping of several Mafia bigshots by black gangsters who are trying to make the Cosa Nostra an Equal Opportunity Employer.)

Even Parker Brothers has been drawn into the controversy, thanks to a sloppily written Time story of the game which makes it appear that this prestigious manufacturer was responsible for it. Urban Systems specializes in ecological games, and presumably this one was developed as a prey-predator relationship between the Mob and various small-time operators, legitimate and otherwise. The game is actually manufactured by Family Games, Inc. in Cambridge.

Principal opponents of the game are Anthony Colombo, vice-president and son of the president of the Italian-American Civil Rights League, a Mafia front which is trying to claim that the entire "Mafia" is the invention of politicians and intellectuals prejudiced against Italians, and Benito Galucci of Bridgeport, also a IACRL leader. Even Mayor Lindsay, a man not commonly sensitive to Italian-American feelings, has commented that "the inventors of this game should go back to the drawing boards." Representative Mario Biaggi (Dem., NY) unsuccessfully tried to get the Federal Trade Commission to ban it. Even the New York Times condemned the game editorially.

Actually, this tumult may be unjustified. The list price of the Godfather Game is \$15.00, and even Spiegel's, the game discount house at the corner of Nassau and Ann Streets in lower Manhattan, charges \$13.20 for it. This is almost twice the price of a Diplomacy set, and Diplomacy has not after all filled the country with Hawks. As a vector of anti-Italian prejudice this game should be notably ineffective.

(Los Angeles Staff, 5 Nov. 1971; New York Times, 13 Nov., & 16, 19, & 22 Dec. 1971.)

Also condemned are various 'torture' and 'monster' games. Nabisco's Aurora Products subsidiary made a Monster Scene toy kit until a picket line of women forced their withdrawal from the market. Still, 800,000 of these were sold before this campaign became effective. In California, a new law banning "horror toys and miniature military weapons" has been passed. (New York Times, 27 Nov. & 16 & 20 Dec. 1971; New York Post, 14 Dec. 1971)

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

"Judging by the fiasco of our foreign policy in the India-Pakistan affair, as well as in other areas, it seems to me that the FBI did the country a distinct disservice in arresting the Berrigans for allegedly wanting to kidnap Henry Kissinger. It would have been far better had they succeeded. That way someone else would have had the job of making foreign policy, and it is just possible that he would have come up with a better policy; he sure couldn't have done worse than the esteemed adviser of our President." - Irving Schechtman, letter, New York Post, 24 December 1971

*

War Bulletin #23, published by Hartley Patterson, 'Finches', 7 Cambridge Rd., Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, England, carries with it the rules for a new historical variation of Diplomacy. Designed by Richard Vedder, it is called Diadokhi, and deals with the period of Mediterranean history between the death of Alexander the Great and the final triumph of Rome. The map takes in everything from Britain to (Egyptian) Thebes, and from Gaetulia to Armenia. There are three types of Great Powers: Rome and Carthage in the first rank; Ptolemaic Egypt, Seleukid Syria, and Makedonia in the second; Pergamum and Rhodes in the third. Under the circumstances, one might ask why the Hashmonaia kingdom of Israel was not included as a third-rank power, since its appearance was a material factor in the downfall of Seleukid Syria and in the extension of Roman power to those parts. (For details see the First Book of Maccabees, or ask a Jewish friend what he was celebrating last month while you were celebrating Christmas.)

The game is available in this country from Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego, Calif. 92116.

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GRAUSTARK, the oldest bulletin of postal Diplomacy, is published on alternate Saturdays by John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11226, USA. The game entry fee is \$6.00. Subscriptions are 8 issues for \$1.00 in the US, Canada, and Mexico, and 5 issues for \$1.00 or 12 issues for £1.00 by surface mail overseas. Back issues are 15¢ apiece, 15 for \$1.00, or 36 for £1.00. Available back issues are 71, 87, 103, 106, 108-111, 114, 117-120, 123, 127-129, 131, 137, 139, 140, 147, 148, 150, 167, 170, 171, 183, 191, 195, 196, 198-200, 202-212, 215-217, 219, 222-224, 231, 239-254. For further information about postal play, including the rules as revised, see #252. This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

*

LATE NEWS: Rod Walker reports, as of 20 December, that he has just moved to 4719 Felton, San Diego, Calif. 92116. His phone number (714-282-1921) remains the same.

*

Peter Yaspan of Kew Gardens, N. Y. has just updated the chess board to make this ancient war game as "global" as modern war. (Bernard Rabin, New York Daily News, 26 Dec. 1971) His new board is a plastic sphere, 9 inches in diameter, to which pieces are held by magnets. He has also developed a chess variant played on a flat circular board, although, according to Boyer's Les Jeux d'Echecs Non Orthodoxes, such variants date back to Byzantine times. Persons interested in the global chess rules, which Yaspan has copyrighted, could inquire of him at 83-19 141st St., Kew Gardens, N. Y. 11435.

1970BN - PRESS RELEASES (continued from p. 4)

cies," said URRP President Mutinus Nightstand, "will henceforth be respectively labeled 'Rouch', 'Rodent', 'Retired', 'Rarties', and 'Routed'."

ST. PETERSBURG (6 Mar. 1909): "Yes," the spokesman from THE CULT informed Vladimir, "we have finally discovered the true identity of Bangs Leslie Tapscott. We voted that he had the full rights of a grasshopper

(continued on p. 12)

HISTORY OF THE FOUR AND A HALF KINGDOMS - X

The announcement of the 1971 Ignobel Prizes was made this year on the afternoon of 21 December in the Salon du Grand-Duc Gorboduc XI of the Hotel de Wogastisburg et Metropole, in the capital of the Grand Duchy of Wogastisburg-Schlampenbüttel. Of the seven members of the selection board for the prizes, Aloys Ignobel and the Zürich Gnome Rumpelslipstick were present; the identities of the other members are kept secret.* Rumpelslipstick, in whose bank most of the Ignobel fortune is kept, made the announcement to a turbulent crowd of diplomats, newsmen, and ordinary citizens who, with the infallible instinct for freeloading which inhabitants of the Balkan Massif possess, had already swept clean the refreshments.

The war prize went, as everyone had suspected, jointly to President Yahya Khan of Pakistan and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India. The only objection came from André Morose, the French Ambassador to Polykarp, who cried out, "Every year this prize is promised to France for our war in Tchad, and every year someone else slips in and gets it!" The espionage award to Daniel Ellsberg also came as no surprise, though correspondent Vidkun Q. Buckley of National Review shouted that "Uncle Bill should have got half the money!" The genocide award went jointly to Generals Niazi of Pakistan and Siddiqi of the Mukti Bahini, "for the diligence with which they slaughtered each other's adherents while remaining themselves safe from any such danger".

It was with the award for provocation that disorder began. Scarcely had Rumpelslipstick said, "To Sheikh Mujib er-Rahman, leader of the Awami League, for winning an election," when shouts came from every quarter of the salon. Loudest was U. S. Senator Winsom Q. Weathercock, on his way to a visit to his ancestors' home in Skandalutz. "I win elections every six years, if my boys vote more often than the other fellow's," he protested. "How does this greaser manage to get a prize doing the same thing?"

"Gentlemen," the banker began when the tumult had quieted slightly, "according to the terms of Alfons Ignobel's will, this award goes to the man - or woman - who has served most effectively as an agent provocateur. Sheikh Mujib's attempt to take power, simply because he had a voting majority of the people behind him, was an intolerable provocation to the Pakistani government. Certainly, Senator, you ought to be familiar with this situation in your own country. For years, a majority of the American people have opposed the war in Indo-China. But do you think anyone would be allowed to take office, or even to run for office, on such a platform?"

This scarcely mollified the American. "Last year I was re-elected on a pledge to withdraw U. S. troops from--"

"Yes, and in 1964 you were re-elected on a platform of complete support for the President's Vietnam policy. In 1968 you supported a presidential candidate who favored the war. Now shut up or I'll tell everyone the amount in your numbered account in my bank."

After this, the award of the prize for military science to Arthur Jensen came as an anti-climax. Jensen's theories that non-whites are inherently the mental inferiors of whites were praised "for promoting both civil and international hostility, and providing justification for innumerable acts of war, civil strife, and other profitable activities."

The reception broke up shortly afterwards, since the Grand-Ducal Parliament had just opened, and everyone wanted to get good seats for the show. Senator Weathercock went on to Skandalutz, where he was chosen King in the Winter Solstice lottery.

* - According to the Bureau of Usually Reliable Sources, International Travelers, and Intelligence Spokesmen, the other five board members are Anastas Mikoyan, Prince Bernhard, Chen Po-ta, Henry Kissinger, and Hastings Banda. President Banda of Malawi, the first African to sit on the board, was allegedly elected by the other members following the imprisonment of Ali Sabry. BURSITIS refuses to confirm or deny a rumor that Yukio Mishima was a board member.

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last year."

"But who is he?" asked Vladimir. "I'm dying of curiosity."

BROOKLYN (URRP): An unidentified spokesman for BURSITIS refused to confirm, deny, acknowledge, discuss, or repeat the latest despatch from St. Petersburg. All he would say is, "If Tapscott does have the rights of a grasshopper, then, living where he does, he'd damn well better watch out for sea-gulls!"

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH (continued from p. 8)

only be at the time of Alexander's conquest - and the Greeks weren't divided up by that time.

Their Majesties and Other Folk may be inaccurate - but you can't deny that it's very funny.

As for fixing the 25 December date for the birth of Jesus, I read somewhere (was it GRAUSTARK?) [No.] that one of the early Popes, trying to find out the date of the birth, asked his various bishops. In return, he got as many different answers as he had bishops. He took the traditional date of sun-return to aid missionaries. I can't help wondering though, if this like so much else was borrowed from Mithras.

[Yes, but Mithraism as preached in the 3rd-century Roman Empire was by no means the first cult to make the Winter Solstice a major festival.]

YALE EDEIKEN (22 Dec.): I wonder about Goldstone's statistics on p. 3 [of GRAUSTARK #254]. Evidently he only considered the "declared" wars prior to 1941. This would overlook such dark corners of American history as the continuing genocidal wars against the Amerinds that lasted until 1890, the American participation in the suppression of the Boxer Rebellion, the guerrilla war in the Phillipines at the turn of the century, Pershing's "incursion" (to use Nixon's euphemism) into Mexico shortly before WW I, Jackson's "incursion" (that lovely word again) in Spanish Florida, our undeclared war against Germany in the North Atlantic prior to the actual start of our participation in WW II, and our numerous take-overs in Latin America during the post-WW I period. While none of these wars were on the scale of the Vietnam war, they did exist and some took more casualties to bring to a conclusion than did the Spanish-American or Mexican-American declared wars.

[In justification of Nixon's policy in Vietnam, Senator Goldwater recently wrote a letter to the New York Times that cited literally hundreds of such undeclared wars.]

GRAUSTARK #255

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FIRST CLASS MAIL